

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:18-cv-02919-CKK**

DEMOCRACY FORWARD FOUNDATION v. U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Assigned to: Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 12/12/2018  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**DEMOCRACY FORWARD  
FOUNDATION**

represented by **John T. Lewis**  
DEMOCRACY FORWARD  
FOUNDATION  
P.O. Box 34553  
Washington, DC 20043  
(202) 448-9090  
Email: [jlewis@democracyforward.org](mailto:jlewis@democracyforward.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Daniel Patrick Schaefer**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
555 Fourth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 252-2531  
Fax: (202) 252-2599  
Email: [Daniel.Schaefer@usdoj.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schaefer@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Peter C. Pfaffenroth**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
Civil Division  
555 Fourth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 252-2513  
Fax: (202) 252-2599  
Email: [peter.pfaffenroth@usdoj.gov](mailto:peter.pfaffenroth@usdoj.gov)  
**TERMINATED: 02/01/2019**  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
12/12/2018	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against All Defendants ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5835820) filed by DEMOCRACY FORWARD FOUNDATION. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons, # <u>3</u> Summons, # <u>4</u> Summons)(Lewis, John) (Entered: 12/12/2018)
12/12/2018	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by DEMOCRACY FORWARD FOUNDATION (Lewis, John) (Entered: 12/12/2018)
12/14/2018		Case Assigned to Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly. (zef, ) (Entered: 12/14/2018)
12/14/2018	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zef, )

		(Entered: 12/14/2018)
12/26/2018	<u>4</u>	ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE COLLEEN KOLLAR-KOTELLY. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 12/26/2018. (DM) (Entered: 12/26/2018)
01/02/2019	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 12/19/2018. ( Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 1/18/2019.), RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 12/19/18., RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 12/19/2018 (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration)(Lewis, John) (Entered: 01/02/2019)
01/18/2019	<u>6</u>	MOTION to Stay , MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>All Deadlines</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Pfaffenroth, Peter) (Entered: 01/18/2019)
01/18/2019	<u>7</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>6</u> MOTION to Stay MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>All Deadlines</i> filed by DEMOCRACY FORWARD FOUNDATION. (Lewis, John) (Entered: 01/18/2019)
01/18/2019		MINUTE ORDER: The Court is in receipt of Defendant's <u>6</u> Motion to Stay and Plaintiff's <u>7</u> Opposition to Defendant's Motion to Stay. The Court ORDERS Defendant to file a Response to Plaintiff's Opposition by JANUARY 22, 2019. Defendant's Response should also indicate what progress, if any, has been made on processing Plaintiff's FOIA request. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 1/18/2019. (lcckk3) (Entered: 01/18/2019)
01/22/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's Response to Plaintiff's Opposition due by 1/22/2019. (kt) (Entered: 01/22/2019)
01/22/2019	<u>8</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>6</u> MOTION to Stay MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>All Deadlines</i> filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 01/22/2019)
01/23/2019		MINUTE ORDER: The Court is in receipt of Defendant's <u>6</u> Motion to Stay, Plaintiff's <u>7</u> Opposition to that motion, and Defendant's <u>8</u> Reply in support of its motion. The Court notes that two agencies are at issue in this case, both of which do not have appropriations and have many workers who are currently on unpaid furlough. The first agency is the Department of State, the agency which would be required to process Plaintiff's FOIA request and, if appropriate, produce the documents. Based on the current record, it is unclear whether or not the Department of State is in a position to process Plaintiff's FOIA request, especially given that it appears that Plaintiff did not request expedited processing. Defendant reports that most personnel operations will resume between January 20, 2019 and February 2, 2019, but it is unclear how this will affect FOIA processing. The second agency at issue is the Department of Justice, whose employees are furloughed and working without pay. Based on the record before the Court, the Court GRANTS Defendant's Motion for a Stay contingent on a Status Report being filed by Defendant on or before FEBRUARY 1, 2019, notifying the Court as to whether or not FOIA requests are being processed by the Department of State and, if so, whether or not Plaintiff's FOIA request has been, can be, or will be processed. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 1/23/2019. (lcckk3) (Entered: 01/23/2019)
01/23/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's Status Report due by 2/1/2019, notifying the Court as to whether or not FOIA requests are being processed by the Department of State and, if so, whether or not Plaintiff's FOIA request has been, can be, or will be processed. (dot) (Entered: 01/24/2019)
01/31/2019	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Restored Government Funding and Proposed Schedule by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 01/31/2019)
01/31/2019		MINUTE ORDER. The Court is in receipt of Defendant's <u>9</u> Status Report. On January 23, 2019, the Court stayed this case due to a lapse in appropriations to the Department of Justice. Defendant reports that appropriations have now been restored. Accordingly, the Court ORDERS the stay be lifted. The Court further ORDERS Defendant to file an

		Answer to Plaintiff's complaint by FEBRUARY 8, 2019, and the parties to file a joint meet and confer report addressing the status of processing Plaintiff's FOIA request by FEBRUARY 28, 2019. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 1/31/2019. (lcckk3) (Entered: 01/31/2019)
01/31/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Answer to <u>1</u> due by 2/8/2019. (dot) (Entered: 02/01/2019)
02/01/2019	<u>10</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Daniel Patrick Schaefer on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Substituting for attorney Peter C. Pfaffenroth (Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 02/01/2019)